

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 CU-02 /067 W
-----020231 094164 /70

R 011600Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4135
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

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E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, WB, GW, GE, US, UR, UK, FR
SUBJECT: POLL FINDS BERLINERS OPTIMISTIC

1. MISSION RECENTLY OBTAINED FROM SENAT COPY OF REPORT
PREPARED IN DECEMBER 1976 ON POLL CONDUCTED IN BERLIN BY
INFOAS (BAD GODESBERG SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE) IN AUGUST
AND SEPTEMBER 1976. OPINIONS WERE SOUGHT ON EIGHT TOPICS:
CURRENT BERLIN SITUATION (59 PERCENT VIEWED IT WITHOUT CONCERN);
BERLIN'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT (53 PERCENT HAD CONFIDENCE
IN IT); RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BERLIN (SPLIT BETWEEN ALLIES
AND FRG); TRUST IN BERLIN POLICY OF ALLIES (64 PERCENT PUT
FAITH IN ALLIES); WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN IF ALLIES LEFT
BERLIN (ONLY 32 PERCENT WOULD DO SO); AWARENESS OF VISITS
BY AMERICAN POLITICIANS (26 PERCENT KNEW THAT SUCH VISITS
HAD TAKEN PLACE); AWARENESS OF OTHER VISITS (ONLY
20 PERCENT AWARENESS); AND IMPORTANCE TO BERLIN OF SUCH
VISITS (46 PERCENT THOUGHT THEY HAD VALUE). (NOTE:
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LAST THREE QUESTIONS WERE INCLUDED AS RESULT OF SUGGESTION
MADE BY VISITING EUR/CE OFFICER.) DETAILED RESPONSES
TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS FOLLOW IN SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPHS.

2. SITUATION IN BERLIN WAS VIEWED POSITIVELY BY
MAJORITY OF BERLINERS. ONLY FEW BERLINERS SAW CITY'S
STATUS THREATENED AT TIME POLL WAS TAKEN. QUESTION AND

RESPONSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

"THIS SITUATION IN BERLIN IS:

"VERY SERIOUS"	4 PERCENT
"RATHER SERIOUS"	28 PERCENT
"NOT PARTICULARLY SERIOUS"	50 PERCENT
"IN NO WAY SERIOUS"	9 PERCENT
NO OPINION	9 PERCENT

3. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF BERLIN WAS ALSO REGARDED
OPTIMISTICALLY BY MAJORITY OF BERLINERS. QUESTION POSED
AND RESPONSES THERETO ARE AS FOLLOWS:

"I REGARD THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF BERLIN:

"WITH CONFIDENCE"	53 PERCENT
"WITH CONCERN"	34 PERCENT
NO OPINION	13 PERCENT

4. RESPONSES TO QUESTION ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BERLIN
WAS INDEX TO CALM ATMOSPHERE PREVAILING IN FALL OF 1976
SINCE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS IN FAVOR OF ALLIES ALWAYS
INCREASES AT TIMES OF CRISIS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION
"WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD BEAR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR
WEST BERLIN?", ANSWERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

"WESTERN ALLIES"	33 PERCENT
"FEDERAL REPUBLIC"	31 PERCENT
"BOTH"	29 PERCENT
"NEITHER"	1 PERCENT
NO OPINION	6 PERCENT

5. ANOTHER INDICATION THAT RESPONDENTS REGARDED SITUATION
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IN BERLIN AS CALM WAS HIGH PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES INDICATING
TRUST IN ALLIES. QUESTION WAS:

"WILL THE WESTERN ALLIES KEEP THEIR PROMISE TO PROTECT
THE FREEDOM OF WEST BERLIN OR WILL THEY SOONER OR LATER
GIVE IN TO THE EAST?" RESPONSES WERE:

"KEEP THEIR PROMISES"	64 PERCENT
"GIVE IN"	12 PERCENT
NO OPINION	24 PERCENT

6. IF THE ALLIES LEFT WEST BERLIN, MOST INHABITANTS WOULD
GO ALSO. QUESTION WAS:

"IF THE WESTERN POWERS WERE TO LEAVE BERLIN, WOULD
YOU STILL REMAIN IN BERLIN?" RESPONDENTS REPLIED:

"I WOULD REMAIN"	32 PERCENT
"I WOULD LEAVE"	47 PERCENT
NO OPINION	21 PERCENT

7. QUESTION WAS ASKED TO TEST AWARENESS OF BERLIN PUBLIC
TO VISITS, SUCH AS THAT OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT ROCK-

EFELLER IN MAY 1976, BUT RESULTS WERE DISAPPOINTING.
(IN CASE OF ROCKEFELLER VISIT, THIS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE IN
PART AT LEAST TO NEWSPAPER STRIKE WHICH OCCURRED AT THE
TIME.) QUESTIONS AND RESPOSNSSES WERE:

"DO YOU KNOW WHETHER AN AMERICAN POLITICIAN VISITED
BERLIN RECENTLY? IF SO, WHO?"

AWARE OF SUCH VISITS	26 PERCENT
KNEW THAT VICE PRESIDENT	
ROCKEFELLER HAD VISITED	4 PERCENT
KNEW THAT THE AMERICAN	
AMBASSADOR HAD VISITED	1 PERCENT
THOUGHT OTHER PROMINENT	
AMERICANS VISITED	6 PERCENT
NOT AWARE OF ANY VISITS	72 PERCENT
NO OPINION	3 PERCENT

8. VISITS BY OTHERS FARED LITTLE BETTER. IN RESPONSE TO
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QUESTION:

"HAVE YOU HEARD OF OTHER VISITS BY OTHER FOREIGN
PERSONALITIES IN BERLIN", RESPONSES WERE:

"YES"	20 PERCENT
"NO"	UO PERCENT
NO OPINION	1 PERCENT

9. ANOTHER MIXED BAG WAS RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON SIG-
NIFICANCE OF VISITS TO BERLIN BY AMERCIAN AND FOREIGN
PERSONALITIES. RESPNDENTS WERE ASKED:

"IN YOUR VIEW, DO SUCH VISITS STRENGHEN THE
POSITION OF BERLIN OR THE CONFIDENCE OF BERLINERS
OR HAVE THEY NO SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS REGARD?" REPLIES
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

"THEY STRENGHTEN BERLIN'S	
POSITION	15 PERCENT
"THEY STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE	
OF BERLINERS"	11 PERCENT
"THEY DO BOTH"	20 PERCENT
"THEY DO NEITHER"	18 PERCENT
NO OPINION	36 PERCENT

10. COPY OF INFAS POLL REPORT BEING POUCHED TO EUR/CE.
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: REPORTS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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